

# Remembering Ed Adams

by Steve Hoth

It has certainly enriched my life to know "Ed" Adams. He was an inspiration to me and to all pilgrims of the Congregational Way who had the privilege of working with him in the NACCC. Ed died December 2, 2005, at his home in Marshalltown, Iowa.



In reviewing Ed's diligent service in the National Association, several highlights need to be mentioned. At the 1986 Annual Meeting, Ed received the Association's Citation. Ed was one of the original saints at Fort Shelby and participated in the founding of the NACCC. In addition, he helped found the continuation Committee that preceded the National Association.

Ed's formal service in the NACCC included serving on the Executive (1964-68) and Credential (1967-68) and Nominating (2003-05) Committees, the Board of the The Congregational Foundation for Theological Studies (1963-75), and as Moderator (1973-74). Although this is an impressive list of offices, his contribution went far beyond the offices he filled.

Ed Watson Adams was born April 2, 1918, in Marshalltown, Iowa, the son of Thomas Edward and Susan Watson Adams. He was raised and educated in Marshalltown, graduating from the Marshalltown High School in 1936. Continuing his education, he attended the Marshalltown Junior College for two years and graduated from the University of Michigan in 1942 with a Bachelors Degree and Jurist Doctorate. On May 31, 1942, he married Virginia Marie DeButts in Marshalltown.

Ed served briefly in the United States Army and later served as an agent with the FBI from 1943 to 1945. Ed began to practice law, joining his father's law firm of Adams, Adams & Adams, and Central Iowa Abstract Company. He specialized in real estate, probate and abstract. During his career, he also served as Marshall County Attorney and as an alternate judge. At the time of his death, he was Marshalltown's oldest practicing attorney.

Ed was very active in the community during his life. He was a life member of the First Congregational Church where he held many offices. He was a co-founder and Moderator of the Iowa-Nebraska Congregational Christian Churches and the American Institute of Parliamentarians. The Boy Scouts were very important to Ed.

He was an Eagle Scout, Scout leader and swimming instructor for many years. He served in various law association positions and was a member of the Central Iowa Land Title Association. He was a Member of the Marshalltown Noon Lions Club where he served as past president and district governor, Sigma Nu Fraternity, American Legion, Elks Club and was a founding member of the Marshalltown Men's Chorus.

Ed is survived by his wife, Virginia Adams, four children, Beth (Gary Zmolek) Adams, Tom (Jane) Adams, both of Marshalltown, Mark (Amy) Adams-Westin of St Paul, MN, and Mary (John Hiatt) Adams of Iowa City; seven grandchildren: Amanda and Shevaun Adams-Zmolek, Mary Jane Adams, Megan Balong, Britta Adams, Jason Nicholson and Sean Adams-Hiatt; nine great-grandchildren and a brother, James T. (Donna) Adams of Los Angeles, CA. He was preceded in death by his parents, and siblings Robert, John, Paul and Mary.

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